


Appl. No. : 10/051.454
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IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Amended) A basketball goal assembly comprising:
a pole having a first end and a second end disposed above the first end;
a goal coupled to the second end and suspended over a playing surface;
a base plate coupled to the first end to support the pole, the base plate having a front side and a rear side;

a plurality of front base supports disposed proximate [underneath] the front side of the base plate to support the base plate, wherein adjacent front base supports are separated by a front span of the base plate;

a plurality of rear base supports disposed proximate [underneath] the rear side of the base plate to support the base plate, wherein adjacent rear base supports are separated by a rear span of the base plate; and

wherein a length of the front span is shorter than a length of the rear span.

2. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 1, wherein each of a plurality of the front and rear base supports comprises a nut threaded onto a corresponding retaining member anchored within an anchoring block such that the nut is vertically adjustable along the retaining member, each retaining member extending through a corresponding hole in the base plate.

3. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 2, wherein the front base supports and the rear base supports each comprise two nuts, each of which is threaded onto a

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

corresponding retaining member, wherein the nuts of the front and rear base supports are arranged in a substantially rectangular configuration.

4. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 3, wherein the front base supports further comprise an intermediate support member positioned between the two nuts of the front base supports, between the holes of the front side of the base.

5. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 4, wherein the intermediate support member comprises a bolt threadably retained by a nut coupler anchored within the anchoring block such that the bolt is vertically movable with respect to the nut coupler to abut the base plate.

6. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 2, wherein the front base supports and the rear base supports each comprise two nuts, each of which is threaded onto a corresponding retaining member, wherein the nuts of the front and rear base supports are arranged in a substantially trapezoidal configuration.

7. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 6, wherein the support base has a trapezoidal shape aligned with the trapezoidal configuration of the nuts of the front and rear base supports.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

103
8. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 2, wherein at least one of the holes of the base plate is elongated to form a slot with a length selected to permit pivotal motion of the base plate such that the retaining members are inserted into the holes without substantial vertical motion of a portion of the base plate.


9. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 1, wherein the first end of the pole is disposed nearer the front side of the base plate than the rear side.

10. (Original) The basketball goal assembly of claim 9, further comprising a plurality of gussets affixed to the pole and the support base, the gussets extending rearward from the pole to stiffen the rear span.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

11. (Original) A mounting assembly for a basketball goal assembly, the mounting assembly comprising:

a plurality of retaining members;



a base plate attached to a pole of the basketball goal assembly, the base plate having a front side, the base plate comprising a plurality of holes formed proximate the front side, wherein each hole is configured to receive one of the retaining members, the base plate having a front span disposed forward of the pole, the front span separating the holes; and

an intermediate support member configured to abut a bottom side of the base plate proximate the front span to resist bending of the front span.


12. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 11, wherein the retaining members are anchored within an anchoring block, the intermediate support member comprising a bolt threadably retained by a nut coupler anchored within the anchoring block such that the bolt is vertically movable with respect to the nut coupler to abut the base plate.

13. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 12, further comprising a template disposable on the anchoring block underneath the base plate, the template having a plurality of holes through which the bolt and the retaining members extend.

14. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 13, further comprising a plurality of intermediate nuts, each of which threadably engages one of the retaining members to support the

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

base plate, wherein the intermediate nuts can be individually adjusted to enable two-axis leveling of the base plate.



15. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 14, wherein the base plate further comprises four holes, each of which is configured to receive one of the retaining members, wherein the holes are disposed in a substantially rectangular configuration.

16. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 11, wherein the intermediate support member comprises an expandable nut configured to be inserted underneath the front side of the base plate and expanded to abut the base plate.


17. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 11, wherein the intermediate support member comprises at least one shim insertable underneath the front side of the base plate to abut the base plate.

18. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 11, wherein the intermediate support member is disposed between the retaining members that pass through the holes of the front side.

19. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 11, wherein the base plate further comprises a rear side with a plurality of holes formed proximate the rear side, wherein each hole is configured to receive one of the retaining members, the base plate having a rear span disposed

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

rearward of the pole, the rear span separating the holes proximate the rear side, the mounting assembly further comprising a top support member configured to abut a top side of the base plate proximate the rear span to resist bending of the rear span.



20. (Original) A mounting assembly for a basketball goal assembly, the mounting assembly comprising:

a plurality of retaining members;

a base plate attached to a pole of the basketball goal assembly, the base plate having a front side and a rear side, the base plate comprising two front holes formed proximate the front side and two rear holes formed proximate the rear side, each of the front and rear holes being configured to permit passage of a retaining member; and

wherein a length of a front span between the front holes is shorter than a length of a rear span between the rear holes.


21. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 20, wherein the holes are arranged in a substantially trapezoidal configuration.

22. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 21, wherein the support base has a trapezoidal shape aligned with the trapezoidal configuration of the holes.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

23. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 22, wherein the pole is attached to the base plate nearer the front side of the base plate than the rear side.

24. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 22, further comprising a plurality of intermediate nuts, each of which threadably engages one of the retaining members to support the base plate, wherein the intermediate nuts can be individually adjusted to enable two-axis leveling of the base plate.



25. (Original) A mounting assembly for a basketball goal assembly, the mounting assembly composing:

a plurality of retaining members anchored within an anchoring block;


a base plate attached to a pole of the basketball goal assembly, the base plate comprising a plurality of holes, wherein each of the holes is configured to permit passage of a retaining member; and

wherein at least one of the holes is elongated to form a slot with a length selected to permit pivotal motion of the base plate such that the retaining members can be inserted into the holes without substantial vertical motion of a portion of the base plate.

26. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 25, wherein the holes comprise two front holes disposed proximate a front side of the base plate and two rear holes disposed proximate a rear side of the base plate.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

27. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 26, wherein each of the front holes is elongated to form a slot, and wherein each of the rear holes is substantially circular in shape.



28. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 25, further comprising a template disposable on the anchoring block underneath the base plate, the template having a plurality of holes through which the retaining members extend.

29. (Original) The mounting assembly of claim 28, wherein the holes of the base plate are positioned such that the portion of the base plate is able to rest on the template during pivotal motion of the base plate to insert the retaining members into the holes of the base plate.


✓ Please cancel Claims 30-43.

Please add the following new claims.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

44. (New) An apparatus that is used while playing the game of basketball, the apparatus comprising:

a basketball goal assembly including an elongated support member and a base, the base including a first set of openings disposed proximate a the front portion of the base and a second set of openings disposed proximate a rear portion of the base;



a mounting assembly including a first set of retaining members and a second set of retaining members, the first set of retaining members being generally aligned with the first set of openings in the base and the second set of retaining members being generally aligned with the second set of openings in the base to allow the basketball goal assembly to be connected to the mounting assembly; and


a template disposed between the mounting assembly and the basketball goal assembly, the template including a first set of openings that are generally aligned with the first set of retaining members and a second set of openings that are generally aligned with the second set of retaining members to allow the retaining members to be inserted through the openings.

45. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising a distance separating the first set of openings in the base and a distance separating the second set of openings in the base, the distance separating the first set of openings in the base being smaller than the distance separating the second set of openings in the base.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

46. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, wherein the elongated support member of the basketball goal assembly is disposed towards the front portion of the base to help resist movement of the basketball goal assembly when the basketball goal assembly is being used.

47. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, wherein the elongated support member of the basketball goal assembly is disposed towards the first set of openings in the base and away from the second set of openings in the base.



48. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising an intermediate support member at least partially disposed between the template and the base, the intermediate support member being sized and configured to contact the base to help prevent deflection of the base when the basketball goal assembly is being used.

49. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising an intermediate support member disposed proximate the first set of openings in the template, the intermediate support member including an upper surface that is sized and configured to contact a lower surface of the base to help prevent deflection of the base when the basketball goal assembly is being used.

50. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising an intermediate support member disposed proximate the second set of openings in the template, the intermediate support

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

member being sized and configured to contact an upper surface of the base to help prevent deflection of the base when the basketball goal assembly is being used.

51. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising an opening generally disposed between the first set of openings in the template, the opening being sized and configured to allow an intermediate support to be inserted through the opening.

52. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 51, wherein the intermediate support includes a first end that is sized and configured to contact the base and a second end that is sized and configured to be connected to the mounting assembly.


53. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, wherein the first set of openings in the base are elongated slots that are sized and configured to allow the basketball goal assembly to be rotated from a generally horizontal position to a generally vertical position without substantial vertical motion of the base relative to the mounting assembly to allow the basketball goal assembly to be connected to the mounting assembly.

54. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, further comprising a first set of nuts connected to the retaining members and disposed between the mounting assembly and the template; further comprising a second set of nuts connected to the retaining members and disposed between the

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

template and the base; and further comprising a third set of nuts connected to the retaining members and being sized and configured to secure the basketball goal assembly to the mounting assembly.

55. (New) The apparatus as in Claim 44, wherein the first set of openings in the base and the second set of openings in the base have a generally trapezoidal configuration.




56. (New) A mounting assembly for a basketball goal, the mounting assembly comprising:

a retaining assembly including first set of retaining members and a second set of retaining members;

a basketball goal assembly including an elongated support member and a base, the base including an upper surface, a lower surface, a front portion and a rear portion, the first set of retaining members being connected to the front portion of the base and the second set of retaining members being connected to the rear portion of the base to secure the basketball goal assembly to the retaining assembly; and

an intermediate support member connected to the retaining assembly and being disposed proximate the first set of retaining members, the intermediate support member including an upper portion that is sized and configured to contact the base to help prevent deflection of the base when the basketball goal is being used.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002



57. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 56, further comprising a first set of openings disposed towards the front portion of the base and a second set of openings disposed towards the rear portion of the base, the first set of retaining members being generally aligned with the first set of openings in the base and the second set of retaining members being generally aligned with the second set of openings in the base to allow the basketball goal assembly to be connected to the retaining assembly.


58. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 57, further comprising a distance separating the first set of openings in the base and a distance separating the second set of openings in the base, the distance separating the first set of openings in the base being smaller than the distance separating the second set of openings in the base.

59. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 57, wherein the elongated support member of the basketball goal assembly is disposed towards the first set of openings in the base and away from the second set of openings in the base.

60. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 57, wherein the first set of openings in the base are elongated slots that are sized and configured to allow the basketball goal assembly to be rotated from a generally horizontal position to a generally vertical position to allow the basketball goal assembly to be connected to the mounting assembly.

Appl. No. : 10/051.454
Filed : January 18, 2002

61. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 57, wherein the first set of openings in the base and the second set of openings in the base have a generally trapezoidal configuration.



62. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 56, further comprising a template disposed between the retaining assembly and the basketball goal assembly, the template including a first set of openings that are generally aligned with the first set of retaining members and a second set of openings that are generally aligned with the second set of retaining members to allow the retaining members to be inserted through the openings.

63. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 56, further comprising a first set of nuts connected to the retaining members and disposed between the mounting assembly and the template; further comprising a second set of nuts connected to the retaining members and disposed between the template and the base; and further comprising a third set of nuts connected to the retaining members and being sized and configured to secure the basketball goal assembly to the mounting assembly.

64. (New) The mounting assembly as in Claim 56, wherein the elongated support member of the basketball goal assembly is disposed towards the front portion of the base to help resist movement of the basketball goal assembly when the basketball goal assembly is being used.